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No. 51

House of Representatives

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 20, 2004.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Under Your Divine Providence, this Nation was established and has been guided through the years. Through turmoil, strife, disasters, and even wars, You have brought Your people to renewed faith, greater strength, and a deeper longing for peace.

Be with us now. Protect our Armed Forces wherever they may be. Confirm their families in Your love. Guide and enable the Members of Congress today as they take up the Nation's business and seek to protect and defend its people.

Through suffering and death, bring forth new life and true freedom by Your almighty power, Lord God, now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BEREUTER led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 129. An act to provide for reform relating to Federal employment, and for other purposes.

S. 1108. An act to establish within the National Park Service the 225th Anniversary of the American Revolution Commemorative Program, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 108-173, the Chair, on behalf of the Democratic Leader, appoints the following individual to serve as a member of the Commission on Systemic Interoperability:

Frederick W. Slunecka, of South Dakota.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 94-201, as amended by Public Law 105-275, the Chair, on behalf of President pro tempore, appoints the following individuals as members of the Board of Trustees of American Folklife Center of the Library of Congress:

Mickey Hart of California, and
Dennis Holub of South Dakota.

The message also announced that pursuant title VI, section 637 of Public Law 108-199, the Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, appoints the following individual to serve as a member of the Helping to Enhance the Liveli-

hood of People (HELP) Around the Globe Commission:

Steven K. Berry of Washington, DC.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 108-199, the Chair, on behalf of the Democratic Leader, announces the appointment made during the adjournment of Douglas G. Ohmer of South Dakota to serve as a member of the Abraham Lincoln Study Abroad Fellowship Program on April 14, 2004.

CONTINUITY OF GOVERNMENT

(Mr. DELAY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, before I start my remarks, I was just moved by the prayer by the chaplain, and I hope everyone hearing our voice and through the miracle of television can pick that up on the Web site and read it once again because it is a prayer that the American people need to focus on and take to heart.

Mr. Speaker, by taking up the Continuity in Representation Act this week, the House will not only address a glaring deficiency in Federal law, it will also make an unequivocal statement about America's national resolve on the war on terror.

None of us in this Chamber or in this Nation wants to think of a scenario that would compel the Speaker to invoke this legislation, but such are the responsibilities of leadership in the post-9/11 world.

The bill will therefore put in place a process by which Congress can quickly reconstitute itself after a catastrophic event. If such an event occurs and an extreme number of resulting vacancies threaten the continuity of congressional activity, the Speaker may, under this legislation, order States to call special elections to fill those vacancies within 45 days.

By passing this legislation, we will guarantee the failure of any terrorist

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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